

*FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR
SEMPRA COMMUNICATIONS' APPLICATION FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY / CPUC A.00-02-020
(SCH #2002042114)*

Lead Agency:

California Public Utilities Commission

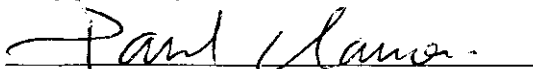
The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) has prepared this final environmental impact report (FEIR) to address Sempra Communications' application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This report has been prepared to finalize the environmental review associated with the proposal by Sempra Communications to provide telecommunications infrastructure and services to selected markets throughout California. The proposal analyzed by the CPUC does not address any specific construction project, network or system but instead proposes a Telecommunications Program (the "Project").

The CPUC completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Sempra Communications' application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). The CPUC filed a Notice of Completion (NOC) with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and a Notice of Availability (NOA) was published and the DEIR was made available for a 45-day public review on July 15, 2002. The DEIR was distributed to responsible and trustee agencies including all city and county planning departments, community development departments, or city hall/city managers (for those cities too small to have a designated planning department) included in the project area. A Public Notice was published in five general circulation newspapers also announcing the availability of the document for public review in compliance with CEQA. The newspapers and publication dates were as follows: the Los Angeles Times and the San Diego Union Tribune on July 22 and 31, 2002; the Sacramento Bee and the San Francisco Chronicle on July 23 and August 1, 2002; and the Fresno Bee on July 23 and 31, 2002. Agency meetings on the DEIR were held on July 12, 13, 14 and 15 in San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, respectively, and the public review and comment period on the DEIR ended on September 10, 2002. Copies of all written comments received on the DEIR, and a summary of all comments made at the agency meetings, are contained in this report.

As the lead CEQA agency, the CPUC prepared a response to all written comments received during the public review period on the DEIR. The response to comments and text changes, together with the DEIR, constitutes the FEIR upon certification by the Commission as complete and adequate pursuant to CEQA.

Findings

Based on the analysis conducted in the FEIR, the proposed project would potentially have short-term significant impacts during construction, with the exception of two identified impacts on water quality and air quality, that may be avoided or reduced to less-than-significant levels with the mitigation measures in the EIR. The Commission, in certifying the completion of the FEIR, will therefore acknowledge that the Project described in the EIR may potentially result in short-term, significant effects that could be unavoidable during construction activities with regard to possible water quality degradation from accidental spillage of drilling fluids into sensitive streams, and an increase in vehicular emissions from construction activities that could potentially add to the regional pollutant loading in the Sacramento Metropolitan, the South Coast, and the Imperial County air basins. Although the project may potentially result in short-term unavoidable impacts, no long-term effects will result from the project.



Paul Clanon, Director
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

10.9.02
Date